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TWO NEW SHINING STARS FROM PRATHAM GYANSHALAS IN BIHAR

Mithilesh Ram is from Nanpur block of Sitamarhi district. He is twelve years old. His father died a while back. In the meanwhile his mother got tuberculosis. He worked in a small hotel to support his mother and two younger sisters. For working 12 to 14 hours a day, washing dishes and serving customers, he would be paid barely Rs 250 five a month.



Mithilesh came to the Pratham Gyanshala in Pupri in August 2006. When he arrived he could only do simple arithmetic orally. He had never been enrolled in school. In the Gyanshala, he learned to read and write, and began to work hard academically. The Gyanshala manager says that Mithilesh is academically an average child but in terms of hard work and honest effort he is far ahead of the others. He likes to play cricket with the other Gyanshala children. He is always concerned about his family. He constantly thinks about what he can do to secure the future of his two younger sisters.

Mithilesh's hard work has taken him in a new and very promising direction. He did very well in the competitive merit based entrance examination and has qualified for admission to the prestigious Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the district.



Rajesh Kumar is from Pupri block of Sitamarhi district in Bihar. His father is illiterate and works as a labourer. Rajesh has a handicapped elder brother and three younger sisters. His father was in touch with a middle man of their village and arranged for Rajesh to go and work in Delhi.

Rajesh was tracked at the railway station by a Pratham team member with the help of Railway Police people. He came to the Pratham Gyanshala in April 2007.

Rajesh is twelve years old. He still looks small in size. Although he had been enrolled in school, he rarely went to school. When he came to the Gyanshala he was not able to even recognize alphabets or numbers.

Right from the beginning Rajesh had been doing well in studies. His strong desire to succeed and ability to work hard has helped him to get selected to Jawahar Novodaya Vidyalaya this year.

A VERY BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO RAJESH AND MITHILESH FOR SHOWING US ALL WHAT IS POSSIBLE IF YOU WORK HARD AND AIM HIGH. CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO THE GYANSHALA TEAM FOR ENABLING THESE BOYS TO DO SO WELL.